

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /080 W
-----001207 140014Z /15

R 131745Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2092
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL TURIN
AMCONSUL/PALERMO 2315
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH

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USEC
USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY
USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF
MILAN HOLD FOR TURIN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT
SUBJECT: THE INTERNAL LABOR DISPUTE CONTINUES UNABATED

REF: ROME 6701

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE EFFORTS TO MEDIATE THE DISAGREEMENT
WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU),
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THE ATMOSPHERE OF DISUNITY PERSISTS UNABATED. THE 90-
MAN CCU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, IN SESSION SINCE APRIL 12,
HAS HEARD A LENGTHY DISCOURSE BY CISL DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
CARNITI IN WHICH HE REASSERTED ALL OF THE ACCUSATIONS
OF IRREGULAR BEHAVIOR, AND OF THE ABSENCE OF CGIL
AUTONOMY FROM THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY,
WHICH CISL SECGEN MACARIO HAD LEVELLED EARLIER. THOUGH

CARNITI'S LENGTHY REMARKS WERE REplete WITH THE CUSTOMARY INDIRECTION AND ALLUSION, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT CISL IS ANGRY WITH BEING USED BY THE CGIL FOR COMMUNIST PURPOSES, AND ALARMED WITH THE LONGER TERM IMPLICATIONS OF CGIL ADVOCACY OF STERN EMERGENCY MEASURES TO COMBAT THE CURRENT WAVE OF TERRORISM. SOME UNFRIENDLY ELEMENTS OF THE PRESS INSINUATE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CISL POSTURE AND THE IMMINENCE OF A VISIT OF TOP CISL OFFICIALS TO CONSULT WITH THE AFL-CIO. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DISPUTE WITHIN CCU RANKS, OCCASIONED BY STRONG ACCUSATIONS LEVELLED BY CISL CHIEF MACARIO AND OTHERS AGAINST CGIL SEC GEN LAMA, CONTINUES DESPITE A VARIETY OF EFFORTS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS TO CALM THE WATERS. THE CCU SECRETARIAT MEETING OF APRIL 11 LEFT MATTERS BASICALLY UNCHANGED, SINCE THE SESSION WAS DEVOTED LARGELY TO REVISING THE KEYNOTE SPEECH WHICH UIL SEC GEN BENVENUTO HAD PREPARED FOR PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS TO THE CCU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING WHICH COMMENCED APRIL 12, AND TO A STUDIED AVOIDANCE OF THE SENSITIVE SUBJECTS UNDER DISPUTE.

3. IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SESSION ON APRIL 12, BENVENUTO DELIVERED HIS LENGTHY REPORT, DENOUNCING TERRORISM AND ASSERTING LABOR'S TOTAL FIDELITY TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMOCRATIC STATE (THOUGH REFUTING ANY SUGGESTION THAT UNIONS ENGAGE IN VIGILANTE EFFORTS), AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR INCREASED ATTENTION TO LABOR INTERESTS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM (THOUGH FINDING IT TO CONTAIN "GRAVE OMISSIONS AND INSUFFICIENCY"). THOUGH BENVENUTO HAD EARLIER INDICATED HE WOULD BE REITERATING HIS CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF ALFA ROMEO'S PROBLEMS, HE DID NOT IN FACT DO SO PRESUMABLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS MIGHT PROVOKE A RESUMPTION OF CISL COMPLAINTS.

4. THE CAREFUL LANGUAGE OF THE REVISED BENVENUTO SPEECH PROVED TO BE IN VAIN, HOWEVER. HE WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY CISL DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL CARNITI WHO DELIVERED A LENGTHY, PREPARED DISSERTATION WHICH, IN THE VIEW OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THE PRESS, HAS FULLY REKINDLED THE STATE OF INTERNAL CCU DISAGREEMENT. THE TEXT OF CARNITI'S REMARKS IS NOT AVAILABLE; PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT, AS SO OFTEN IN ITALIAN LABOR (AND POLITICAL) RHETORIC, HIS REMARKS WERE FULL OF ALLUSIONS, EUPHEMISMS AND INDIRECTION.

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R 131745Z APR 78
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5. IT IS THUS DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE, WITH CERTAINTY,
JUST WHAT IT IS THAT IS BUGGING THE CISL, HOWEVER, TWO
AREAS OF EXPLANATION CLEARLY OFFER THEMSELVES: A) AS
INDICATED EARLIER, CISL -- ALL ELEMENTS OF THE ORGANI-
ZATION, WITHOUT RESPECT TO "MAJORITY" OR "MINORITY" --
ARE ANGRILY FRUSTRATED WITH BEING RELEGATED CONSTANTLY
TO THE ROLE OF BEING PART OF THE CGIL ENTOURAGE, AND THUS
AN INSTRUMENT OF PCI POLICY. THIS CONCLUSION IS READILY
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DRAWN FROM THE COMPLAINTS ABOUT PREEMPTING INTERCONFEDERAL DISCUSSIONS THROUGH THE USE OF PRESS INTERVIEWS, AND FROM FREQUENT ALLUSIONS TO "SHORTCOMINGS IN TRADE UNION AUTONOMY" ON THE PART OF CERTAIN (ALWAYS UNSPECIFIED) ELEMENTS OF THE CCU. B) THE OTHER CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR WOULD APPEAR TO BE CISL CONCERN WITH NOT ONLY THE METHOD OF CGIL COM-PORTMENT, BUT ALSO WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CONTENT OF THE INTERVIEW, NAMELY, LAMA'S POWERFUL ADVOCACY FOR CON- CERTED EFFORTS TO CRUSH TERRORISM. "THE OBJECTIONS DERIVE NOT FROM THE MEANS THROUGH WHICH THE THINGS HAVE BEEN SAID", SAID CARNITI AT ONE POINT, "BUT FROM MANY OF THE THINGS WHICH WERE SAID BECAUSE OF THE STRATEGIC INDICA- TIONS WHICH THEY IMPLY". AT ANOTHER POINT, CARNITI SAID, WITH RESPECT TO CISL CONCERNS, THAT "WE ARE TALKING ABOUT PRINCIPLES WHICH CANNOT BE SUPPLANTED BY OTHER VALUES DERIVING FROM A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE, BUT WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED IN THE UNITARY RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT PROVOKING GRAVE LACERATIONS AND, IN A DEFINITIVE MANNER, OUR EXCLUSION AND THAT OF MILLIONS OF WORKERS FROM THE UNITARY PROCESS. IT IS ON THIS BASIS THAT INTERNAL CISL UNITY IS FORGED, WHICH MAY BREAK FROM TIME TO TIME ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BUT NOT WHEN MAJOR VALUES ARE AT STAKE". IN SHORT, THERE IS A FEAR THAT THE COMMUNISTS FAVOR THE INTRODUCTION OF EMERGENCY PUBLIC SECURITY MEASURES NOT ONLY TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT THREAT TO THE STATE, BUT ULTIMATELY FOR UTILIZATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNIST GOAL OF ASSUMING THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT.

6. THE WIDELY-READ LEFT WING ROME DAILY, IL MESSAGGERO, TIES CISL COMPORTMENT TO THE IMPENDING TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES BY A TOP CISL DELEGATION. THE PAPER'S SOCIALIST LABOR EDITOR, SERGIO TURONE, ACCUSES THE CISL OF "SEEKING TO RECREATE THE CLIMATE OF APRIL 18, 1948" (WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS BROKE WITH THE CGIL TO FORM THE CISL.) NOTING THE INTENT TO CONSULT WITH THE AFL-CIO, "WHOSE ACTIVITIES ARE CHARACTERIZED BY A SYSTEMATIC AND INSISTENT ANTI-MARXISM", TURONE ASKS RHETORICALLY: "IS IT EXCESSIVELY PESSIMISTIC TO AVER -- FOLLOWING THE STRONG LETTER WRITTEN LAST FRIDAY BY MACARIO TO LAMA -- THAT THE OVER- COMING OF DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN THE CISL AND THE AFL-CIO MAY WELL TAKE PLACE ALONG LINES MUCH CLOSER TO THAT OF CONTROVERSIAL AMERICAN ORGANIZATION THAN TO THAT OF CISL?" TURONE CONCLUDES BY STATING: "AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN LAMA BREAKS WITH MOSCOW, IT IS AT LEAST CURIOUS THAT MACARIO SEEKS TO REANIMATE THE FRIENDSHIP WITH WASHINGTON". UNITA, ON THE OTHER HAND, ALTHOUGH ALSO ALLUDING TO THE COMING CISL VISIT TO THE US, DIS- CARDS IT AS AN EXPLANATION FOR CISL CRITICISM OF THE

CGIL.GARDNER

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